

ABA Training through the Pennsylvania State University FAQ

Training Questions

1. Will I be learning about ABA specific to students with autism?

Not necessarily. ABA is based on principles of behavior developed by behavioral scientists through years of careful experimental research. These principles are well established and permit objective description and prediction of behavior. Applied Behavior Analysis refers to the use of these validated behavior principles to improve human behavior toward achieving social and self-selected goals. A set of strategies has been established and is being refined to enable professionals to bring about positive therapeutic and socially important changes for individuals and groups. These principles can be applied regardless of disability category.

2. Will I have all the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) requirements completed after finishing these classes?

When you complete the Penn State training, you will have the coursework requirement for the BCBA done. There are additional requirements the Behavior Analysis Certification Board maintains prior to sitting for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) exam (more information can be found at www.bacb.com).

One of the BACB requirements is specific work with children using ABA. This requirement can be completed concurrent with or subsequent to the course of study. There are individuals associated with PSU who will mentor graduates as they complete the practicum component of BCBA preparation, as well as individuals in Missouri.

3. How do I find out more information about the training?

Visit the Penn State website at
<http://www.outreach.psu.edu/statewideprograms/ABA/>

4. What supports are offered for this training?

You may choose to subscribe to a listserv to “chat” with other Missouri participants. Otherwise, it is independent study.

5. What do I do if I have questions about the instructional materials?

Contact the instructor listed in the syllabus.

6. What do I do if I need to withdraw from the program?

Contact John Bamberg at Jbamberg@mail.dese.state.mo.us.

7. Why do I have to send my initial registration to DESE?

The Missouri DESE is the cohort sponsor, which allows registrants reduced tuition costs, compared to the normal out-of-state fees.

8. Do I have to take the BACB exam?

No. Participants may complete the course of study without pursuing board certification. At that point, they have additional formal education in ABA, which is valuable to schools, service providers and parents alike.

9. Why is there such a reliance on electronic correspondence?

As a distance learning program, information is delayed when using standard mail services. Therefore, students are expected to have access to electronic mail in order to participate.

10. What other equipment/resources do I need?

You'll need access to a VCR, as all lectures are provided in this manner for the first three courses. Additional information can be found at <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/statewideprograms/ABA/>.

11. Will there be a BACB exam in Missouri?

When there are enough registrants for this exam, a separate testing site will be provided in Missouri.

12. How will course materials get to me?

They are sent via UPS, Federal Express, or standard mail to your home address.

13. What are the dates for each course?

ABA4: July 27, 2003 - August 2, 2003 in Pennsylvania

Funding Questions

1. If I receive DESE funding, how much time will I commit to?

Up to 15 calendar days (120 hours) worth of ABA-related services through the DESE or its contracted representative.

2. What happens to my funding if I earn a “C” or lower in a class?

It is withdrawn for the next class.

3. Is there an appeal process?

No.

4. Is there a reinstatement process?

Yes. If you receive a C in a class and a B in the subsequent class, you may be funded for the remaining class(es).

5. What type of activities will I be committing to, should I receive DESE funding?

These services may include providing regional consultation (designing or supervising an appropriate ABA plan for children with disabilities), parent training, curriculum development, staff development training, or supervision of others pursuing BACB credentials.

6. What are the selection criteria for funding?

Factors considered in awarding the scholarships include the applicant's current interaction with children with autism (as opposed to those who are administrators only), background knowledge of autism, and agency affiliation. In order to assure ABA access to all individuals birth-21, individuals associated with public schools, private agencies, and individual contractors through First Steps are considered equally for scholarships.

7. Will DESE provide additional funding opportunities in the future?

There is no guarantee of additional funding in the future.

8. Why is geography so important?

One of the most significant concerns regarding ABA in Missouri is the availability of the services throughout the state. Geographic dispersion of funding recipients improves availability for all.

9. If I don't receive funding, and someone drops from the program, is there a waiting list by which I might be funded further into the course of study?

No.

10. If I receive DESE funding, what do I write on my registration form in the payment section?

Write "MO DESE FUNDED". We coordinate funding directly with Penn State.